

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /177 W

----- 029862

R 251405Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5414

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS DUBLIN 0264

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ENRG, EI

SUBJECT: ENERGY: FURTHER INCREASES IN GASOLINE AND OIL PRICES

REF: DUBLIN 0169

1. WITH EFFECT FROM FEBRUARY 21 RETAIL PRICE OF GASOLINE  
INCREASED BY 8.3 PENCE (19 CENTS)PER IMPERIAL GALLON FOR  
PREMIUM GRADE. GRADES AVAILABLE NOW PRICED PER GALLON AT 50.3  
PENCE (\$1.16), 49.7P (\$1.14) AND 48.2P (\$1.11). INCREASES IN FUEL  
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OILS, GAS, DIESEL, KEROSENE, HEATING, ETC. RANGE FROM 5.25P (12

CENTS) TO 6.5P (15 CENTS). GASOLINE PRICE HAS INCREASED BY 11PENCE (25 CENTS) A GALLON IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS. PRICE RISES EXPECTED SINCE IRELAND IS TIED TO BRITISH PRICES WHICH WERE INCREASED 8 PENCE PER GALLON ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO. NEW IRISH GASOLINE PRICE INCLUDED A GOI APPROVED INCREASE OF 0.77 PENCE TO COVER RISING COSTS OF RETAIL OUTLETS. RETAILERS DISSATISFIED -THEY ARE LOOKING FOR 2.4 PENCE - AND THREATENING TO CLOSE DOWN OPERATIONS IN PROTEST.

2. IN DAIL (PARLIAMENT) DEBATE FEBRUARY 21 MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND POWER ADMITTED GOI IS AT THE MERCY OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES AND QUOTE THERE IS NO WAY IN THE SHORT TERM THAT WE CAN GET OUT OF THEIR HANDS UNQUOTE. ONLY OIL REFINERY, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING HALF OF COUNTRY'S NEEDS, IS CONTROLLED BY ESSO, TEXACO AND SHELL BP. DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS ARE ALSO CONTROLLED BY MAJOR OIL COMPANIES. OPPOSITION DEPUTY SUGGESTED OIL COMPANIES WOULD MAKE 6 MILLION POUNDS STERLING BY CHARGING NEW PRICES FOR SUPPLIES ALREADY IN STOCK. (MINISTER STATED THAT TOTAL OIL STOCK ON FEBRUARY 18 WAS ABOUT 677,000 METRIC TONS, SOME 122,000 METRIC TONS SHORT OF THE 65 DAYS OVERALL SUPPLY ON HANDS AT THE START OF THE PRESENT CRISIS. REPLYING TO QUERIES ON REPORTED BRITISH INTENTION OF RATIONING OIL EXPORTS, MINISTER STATED THERE HAD BEEN DISCUSSIONS AND BRITAIN HAD AGREED TO LICENSE EXPORTS TO IRELAND ON A BASIS EQUIVALENT TO THE GENERAL LEVEL OF SUPPLY IN THE WHOLE MARKET. MINISTER SAID HE HAD REPORTS OF SOME DELAYS AND DIFFICULTIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUE TO LICENSES BUT THE GENERAL FLOW OF OIL PRODUCTS HAS BEEN MAINTAINED AND A CHANGE IN THE POSITION IS NOT ANTICIPATED.)

3. MINISTRY AND COMMERCE KEATING RECENTLY STATED GOI FACED DILEMMA OVER OBTAINING OIL SUPPLIES AND DECIDED TO TIE PRICES TO THOSE OF OUTER ZONE IN BRITAIN WHICH ARE REGULATED BY BRITISH PRICES COMMISSION. AS A CONSEQUENCE RISES IN BRITISH PRICES AUTOMATICALLY FOLLOW IN IRELAND AFTER REQUIRED 7 DAYS NOTICE BY LOCAL COMPANIES TO IRISH PRICES COMMISSION. LATTER HAS ONLY A MONITORING ROLE. DECISION TO TIE UP WITH BRITAIN TAKEN TO ENSURE IRISH INDUSTRY WOULD BE IN A COMPARABLE POSITION TO COMPETITORS IN INDUSTRIAL TERMS.

4. AER LINGUS/IRISH INTERNATIONAL CLAIMS OIL SITUATION HURTING  
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FINANCES AS AIRLINE FUEL COSTS INCREASED BY 150 PERCENT.  
(5. GOI HAS SET UP CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE ECONOMY TO EXAMINE CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE ENERGY SHORTAGE AND TO ADVISE A COURSE OF ACTION. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PROVIDING RE-EQUIPMENT AND RESEARCH GRANTS AIMED AT ASSISTING INDUSTRY TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIES IN USE OF ENERGY IN PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND SPACE HEATING IN FACTORIES.)  
MOORE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, PRICES, PETROLEUM REFINING, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 FEB 1974  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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